



**Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute
Class of 2008-2010**

Patricia A. Alvarado (Patsy): Director, *First Born*[®] Program

Patsy was born and raised in Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico; she has four grown children and three grandchildren. Patsy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Science and Math at New Mexico Highlands University with a minor in Secondary Education, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She currently holds an Administrator's Certificate; she was the principal at McCurdy High School for 8 years. Patsy became a Master Teacher of Mathematics (one of the first Master Teachers at the inception of the program) for the Math and Science Academy. Her entry into the *First Born*[®] Program comes from a desire to help families who are parenting for the first time how to enjoy being parents by learning more about their babies and how to access support systems in their communities.

Margaret Andriani: Nursery Aide, *Santa Fe High School Teen Center*

Margaret was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York in a family with nine children. She has a BA in psychology from Fordham University, and was a psychotherapist in private practice for 12 years in New York City. Margaret now lives in Santa Fe with her husband and daughter and works at the Santa Fe Public School Teen Parent Center; she is finally fulfilling a lifelong desire to work with infants. At the center Margaret works with teen moms and their infants while implementing knowledge of best practices in promoting infant mental health. She finds infants amazing in their diversity and hopes to be a positive influence in their lives and the lives of their families.

Georgianne Bird: Home Visitor, *First Born*[®] Program

Georgianne is a native of New Mexico, and the mother of two little boys. She works in Rio Arriba County through the *First Born* Program promoting health, nutrition and emotional well being for the families with whom she works. She has attended New Mexico Highlands University and is currently pursuing a degree in elementary education at Northern New Mexico College.

Loretta Bifulco: Art Therapist, *Santa Fe Recovery Center*

Loretta was born in Huntington Long Island, New York, but considers herself a native New Mexican; she has lived in Northern New Mexico for over 30 years. Her five children were born in New Mexico; the eldest attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Loretta has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Foods and Nutrition and a Master of Arts degree in



Nutrition Education, which started her on the path of seeking answers to healthy eating. Loretta returned to school and began her journey as an Art Therapist. She has worked as a therapist for a Boys Resident Treatment Center in Española and as an Outpatient Therapist for children and families. Loretta has been a coordinator for the Behavioral Management System in the Española Schools and a School Counselor for the Santa Fe Elementary Schools. At present she is working at the Santa Fe Recovery Center conducting Art Therapy groups and relapse prevention groups.

Katherine Chavez: Home Visitor, *First Born*[®] Program (Taos)

Katherine was born in East Los Angeles. She lived in Ontario, California and worked as a commercial insurance agent for group homes. Katherine and her husband, daughter and son now live in Taos, New Mexico. When Katherine had children of her own she became interested in early childhood development. Katherine owned her own business and worked in a kindergarten class at Anansi Charter School. She is trained in the *Love and Logic* and *Emotional Intelligence* curricula and has facilitated classes for parents and child care workers. Katherine is currently completing her final year of college and working for First Steps in Taos.

Nancy Clow: Home Visitor, *First Born*[®] Program

Nancy was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and has lived in New Mexico for 30 years. She is the mother of two grown daughters, and the grandmother of one. Her background is in accounting, but after her grandson was born the idea of working with babies and their families became important. Nancy is a home visitor for the *First Born Program* and finds it very rewarding to work with first-time parents; she works with a wide range of families, from teen parents to parents in their 40s. Nancy appreciates that each baby and family is different and is happy to help parents become aware of behaviors, learn to be good observers of their babies, and to access necessary services in their communities.

Kristine Coblentz: Home Visitor Supervisor, *First Born*[®] Program

Kristine was born in Abilene, Texas and is the mother of a son and a daughter. She brings her fascination with how we learn, optimal learning environments and the various learning styles to her work with the First Born Program. She is currently establishing a First Born Program for Los Alamos County families. Kristine has a Masters degree in English Language and Linguistics. She has taught English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, Intensive Writing, and has worked as a home schooling mom, a community volunteer and a home visitor. She is especially excited to further her studies and add to her tool box through participating in the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute.



Barbara DeDera : Owner, *Alpha School, Inc.*

Barbara was born in Chicago, Illinois and is the mother of two sons and the grandmother of one. She has owned Alpha School, Inc. for over twenty years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Alpha School, Inc. has been accredited by the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for 15 years and in May 2008 was the "First Center" in New Mexico to be accredited by the National Accreditation Commission. Alpha School, Inc. enrolls 180 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. Barbara has over 30 years of early childhood experience and is licensed to facilitate *Mind in the Making* and the 45 Hour Entry Level Course. Barbara was appointed two years ago by Governor Richardson to serve on the Child Development Board for the State of New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department. Barbara has a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Business and a Master Degree in Organizational Management.

Theresa L. Donahue: Lead Family Therapist, *Aprendamos Intervention Team*

Theresa was raised in Wilmington, Delaware, and has experienced the benefits of living in a diverse, multicultural area where many languages and ethnicities are valued. Theresa attended graduate school at New Mexico State University and went on to work for the Children, Youth and Families Department as a Permanency Planning Specialist. Theresa has written numerous adoptive home studies for families who are seeking to adopt a child both locally and internationally. She was a Special Education Social Worker with the Las Cruces Public School's Mental Health Team, and as a Behavior Support Consultant, working with individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Theresa has served as a board member for "New Mexico Protection and Advocacy," a non-profit organization that oversees and upholds the rights and legal protection of disabled and other vulnerable populations in New Mexico. She provides direct therapy in the homes of families and believes strongly in the "team intervention approach" in early intervention, the key to emotional regulation, empathy, security and connection. Theresa is the mother of three children.

Regina I. Huffman: Director, Early Childhood Program, *Disability Services Incorporated*

Regina was born the seventh of eight children in northern New Mexico. She is the mother of two children and the grandmother of one. Regina pursued an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Development and Psychology from the University of New Mexico and earned a Master's Degree in Counseling from Western New Mexico University. She is currently the Director for the Early Childhood Program at Disability Services Incorporated in Gallup, NM, and has worked with children and families in the school system, the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Early Learning for Success Program. She believes that our greatest asset in New Mexico is the people and that the process begins the first few years of life and can continue if families are supported in making good choices for their children.



Tekla Johnson: Program Manager, *Santa Fe Children's Project*

Tekla is a licensed social worker and has worked with families with young children as a Home Visitor for nine years. Tekla works primarily with Spanish-speaking, immigrant families as the First Born Program Manager for the Santa Fe Children's Project, an initiative of United Way of Santa Fe County.

Diana Kinney: Developmental Specialist III

Diana Kinney has a passion for helping those in need, especially children. She is the mother of three young men and a grandmother of five children. Diana began her college career in 2001 and has since earned a Master's Degree in Social Work at New Mexico Highlands University in Farmington. Her experiences include time as a Medicaid Consultant and nursery daycare provider. She is currently a Developmental Specialist III working with children birth to three at risk of developmental delays. Diana is excited to gain the knowledge offered by *Las Cumbres'* Training Institute and is anxious to use this knowledge and training to help the people of Farmington enrich the mental health of their families.

Patricia Martinez Burr: Clinical Therapist

Patricia has been in private practice for the last 15 years as a sole practitioner (LPCC). She obtained a BS in Psychology from Washington State University; an MA in Counseling from Webster University; and is currently a Ph.D. candidate with University of New Mexico in Family Studies. Patricia specializes in relationship issues, domestic abuse, anger management, victim recovery, parent education, and issues around multiculturalism, primarily working with adults, adolescents, and middle childhood-aged clients, individuals, families, and couples. Patricia has taught undergraduates and currently teaches at New Mexico Highlands University at Rio Rancho at the graduate level. She is the mother of two daughters, both of whom are in college. Patricia enjoys helping individuals and families overcome obstacles toward a better, healthier life.

Rita McGrath: Parent Educator *Parents as Teachers*

Rita has worked in the field of early childhood for 20 years. She has taught children under 5 years old with developmental delays and been a parent advocate for children with hearing impairments and/or otitis media, a college instructor for early childhood courses, a consultant to early childhood teachers, a teacher of kindergarten through 3rd grade, and a trainer for the La Flecha Project. At present Rita is a certified parent educator for families of children prenatal to 5 years old through the *Parents as Teachers* program. Rita has a BS in Elementary Education and is the mother of five children.



Gyna Montoya: Day Treatment Program Manager, *Children's Treatment Center*

Gyna is the mother of two children, ages 8 and 2. She works for the Children's Treatment Center in Albuquerque as the Manager of the Day Treatment Program where she supervises six employees, schedules treatment and medication meetings, and supervises social skills training. Gyna loves working with children and is always eager to increase her knowledge regarding best practices for working with youth. She loves to cook, ride bikes, be involved in her church, and spend time with her children.

Prairie Orange: Early Childhood Educator

Prairie became involved in the field of Early Childhood when her own children were in preschool. She has earned a Montessori credential and is active in the New Mexico PreK program. Prairie has been trained in *Music Together* and the philosophy of Reggio Emilia schools in Italy. She is currently finishing her degree in Early Childhood Education at New Mexico State University. Prairie has four children, including a newborn. She serves on the New Mexico Licensed Midwife Advisory Board, and on the board of Escuela de Esperanza, a Montessori Elementary School in Northern New Mexico.

Deryl Palmer: Family Therapist *Aprendamos Intervention Team*

Deryl has earned a Masters in Social Work from New Mexico State University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Eastern New Mexico University. He recently passed the Licensed Independent Social Worker exam. Deryl is the father of three children. Deryl was a Special Education social worker with Las Cruces Public Schools. He currently works for the Aprendamos Intervention Team as a Family Therapist and part time as a volunteer trainer for Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Deryl enjoys working with children in various capacities, and likes to read, play sports and be involved in his church.

Rocio Perales: Bilingual Service Coordinator, *Alta Mira Specialized Family Services*

Rocio was born and raised in Mexico and moved to Albuquerque when she was 13 years old. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico in Family Studies and Human Services. She has worked as a case manager for Parents of Behaviorally Different Children. Currently, Rocio is Bilingual Service Coordinator at Alta Mira Specialized Family Service Early Intervention Agency where she supports children under the age of 3 who have special needs; she is also a certified Developmental Specialist II. Rocio strives to give families the strength and encouragement to learn about and utilize community resources. She is the mother of two children, and enjoys baking and spending time outdoors with her children.



Suzanne Pope: Developmental Specialist III, *New Mexico School for the Deaf*

Suzanne is a Developmental Specialist III working with the New Mexico School for the Deaf's Step*Hi Program. Over the past three decades, Suzanne has provided rural, frontier and urban home-based early intervention services for families of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Suzanne's commitment to the field of early childhood mental health was sparked by years of observing how the relationships that infants and children have with their parents and other primary caregivers directly impact their development and overall well-being. Suzanne also works with the Department of Health Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program, the FIT Program's advisory council, and the statewide newborn hearing screening program. Suzanne's professional experiences include coordinating statewide and regional early intervention programs, providing national and in-state training and technical assistance for early intervention staff, and teaching preschool and elementary age students who are deaf or hard of hearing in self-contained and inclusive settings.

Kathryn A Rice: Licensed Independent Social Worker

Kathryn was born in Macau, China, and was adopted as a small child into a large New Jersey family. This event sparked her curiosity about how we develop as inter-connected beings. Kathryn's professional career has undergone many transformations that have contributed to her growth as a therapist. She moved to Santa Fe in 1999 and is the mother of two children. Kathryn is in private practice working with children age birth to 10 years old and their families. She loves her incredible family and enjoys wandering and wondering about our world.

Henry Rowlison: Occupational Therapist, Lead Motor Therapist, *Aprendamos Intervention Team*

Henry has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from New Mexico Southern University and a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston. He has worked as an Occupational Therapist in the public schools and in early intervention (EI) programs for 11 years. He has primarily worked in Las Cruces and in rural areas including Lordsburg, Animas, Truth or Consequences, Deming, Hatch, and Anthony. He currently is the lead motor therapist for the Aprendamos Intervention Team (an EI provider and contractor of school-based therapy services) based in Las Cruces. In this position he is able to positively impact the quality of occupational and physical therapy services in Dona Ana, Sierra, and Luna counties. He feels that the idea of developing meaningful relationships with children and their families in the EI setting must be carried into the public school setting in order for the child to continue to be successful.



Peggy Soria: Early Childhood Coordinator, *Parents as Teachers*

Peggy was born and raised in the Northwest corner of the state, and has worked for Central Consolidated School District for 23 years; she has taught 5th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st grades. Understanding the importance of reaching children at a young age, she started a *Parents As Teachers* Program in the District. Peggy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education at Ft. Lewis College and a Master of Arts in Elementary Education at New Mexico State University. She is the mother of two sons and a daughter and the grandmother of two. Peggy feels blessed to work in a position where she can support and enhance the healthy development of little ones.

Michelle Staley: Consultant, *Center of Development and Disability*

Michelle Staley is a Training and Program Development Consultant for the Early Childhood Learning Network with the Center of Development and Disability. Michelle brings experience from many facets, as a parent, a developmental specialist, an early intervention coordinator, college instructor, program development specialist, and a state advocacy leader for the *Creating Connections for Babies* project. Michelle's work in small, rural, and culturally diverse communities provides her additional awareness and understanding of the challenges regarding issues that affect young children, their families, and the programs that support them. Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Arts degree in Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Special Education from New Mexico State University. Michelle is one of 12 Birth- to-Three State Advocacy Leaders for the *Zero to Three Creating Connections for Babies* project.

Amber Tenorio: Mental Health Services Manager, *Pueblo of Laguna*

Amber, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, is currently the Mental Health Services Manager for the Pueblo of Laguna Division of Early Childhood. Amber has a Bachelors Degree in Human Development and Family Relations and a Masters Degree in Marriage, Child and Family Therapy. Amber works with children and families who are participants in Early Head Start, Pre-school Head Start, Home Based Early Head Start and Early Intervention. She has also worked with University of New Mexico Teen Centers as a Health Educator in the Laguna, Acoma and To'Hajiilee communities. Amber is a member of the Laguna tribe and resides in the village of Seama on the Laguna reservation. Amber has a very active family life with five children and a husband.

Susan Tharpe: Social Worker, Home Visitor *Laguna Department of Education*

Susan is from Laguna Pueblo and is the mother of three children. She has a Masters Degree in Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University in Rio Rancho. Susan has worked as a



social worker at Indian Health Services and in a tribal program for juvenile offenders. Susan is currently a Home Visitor for the Division of Early Childhood Early Head Start in Laguna where she helps families learn information about the healthy physical and emotional development of their children; she also provides support as a service coordinator.

Robin Younger: Birth and Postpartum Doula

Robin is a certified birth and postpartum doula who works independently in Albuquerque. As a doula, she provides a wide array of support services to new mothers and their partners and families before, during, and in the days and weeks following birth. Robin was born in Massachusetts where she majored in Early Childhood Education at Wheelock College before taking a two-year hiatus to live and work in Kathmandu, Nepal. Robin came to New Mexico in 1976 and completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of New Mexico. She worked as an Infant-Toddler teacher for more than 15 years in Albuquerque, including A Child's Garden Preschool. She received her birth doula training through Seattle Midwifery School and is certified as a birth and postpartum doula through DONA International. She is the mother of two daughters.

Caryle H. Zorumski: Clinical Mental Health Counselor *Silver Bear Behavior Health*

Caryle was raised in Pennsylvania, and moved to New Mexico from Virginia. She is an independent practitioner in Taos. Her career has included work in state and local human services, community mental health, federal government, and juvenile justice programs. With more than 30 years of professional experience as a therapist, consultant, program developer and educator in a variety of settings, she embraces the incomparable value of early intervention to promote children's development to their fullest potential. Caryle received her Ed.D in Counseling from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA where her dissertation study was "The Effects of Self-Care Training on the Self-Concept, Self-Care Behavior and Metabolic Control of Children with Diabetes." She holds an MEd in Counseling from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Building on her embrace of the mind-body connection, she recently completed training as a HypnoBirthing® practitioner. Caryle is the mother of four and the grandmother of seven.